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# Anglo-American Relations

## Concerning the Origin of the PILGRIMS SOCIETY

As a Matter of Insuring Historical  
Accuracy, the within Record  
is Published

FRED V. S. CROSBY  
120 Broadway, New York, N. Y.





EARL ROBERTS





*Paris Edition, New York Herald  
July 12, 1902*

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## PILGRIMS TO HAVE A RESTING PLACE.

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Steps Taken in London for Formation  
of an Anglo-American  
Club.

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### MEETING AT CARLTON HOTEL.

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Plan of Organization Outlined by Mr.  
Lindsay Russell Approved and  
Committee Appointed.

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[BY THE HERALD'S SPECIAL WIRE]

LONDON, Saturday.—A meeting was held at the Carlton Hotel yesterday, when the first steps were taken in the formation of an Anglo-American Club, to be known as "The Pilgrims."

General Joseph Wheeler presided, Mr. H. E. V. Brittan acted as secretary and some forty men were present.

The object of the club and a plan of organization were outlined by Mr. Lindsay Russell, of New York, who has been the principal mover in the matter. Mr. Hamilton McCormick, Colonel Mahan, (of the British army), Mr. Oliver Hereford, Mr. Frank A. Munsey, and Mr. James McDonald all spoke in unqualified praise of the idea and were in favor of immediate steps being taken for the organization of the club upon the lines suggested by Mr. Russell, and which have already been set forth in the HERALD. ←

**MCLAUGHLIN, RUSSELL, COE & SPRAGUE**

CITY INVESTING BUILDING, 165 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK

FREDERICK C. MCLAUGHLIN  
LINDSAY RUSSELL  
WALTER E. COE  
RUFUS A. SPRAGUE JR.  
EDWARD P. SHARRETT  
ROBERT H. HILLS

December 15, 1919.

Mr. Robert V. J. Bronty,  
Miss Pacific Railroad Co.  
New York, New York City.

Dear Mr. Bronty:

Referring to your enquiry concerning the Pilgrims Society, which was formed for the purpose of bringing together at intervals statesmen and informed men of the United States and Great Britain and of affording a sort of board of hospitality as a means of fostering friendship, I may say that perhaps no one individual could be said to have founded it. The common law rule that it takes three or more to make a man is perhaps applicable to a Society. However, those who co-operated and contributed most in the formation of it were:

LONDON

NEW YORK

General Joseph Chamberlain  
Albert J. Ince  
Correspondent, N. Y. Herald  
George T. Wilson  
Milton E. Snyder  
Editor of the N. Y. Herald  
Julius Neef  
Editor of the Associated Press  
Douglas A. Cook  
J. Arthur Garratt  
Frank A. Moseley  
J. H. F. R.  
Editor of the N. Y. Tribune  
J. H. Chamberlain  
Editor of the N. Y. Sun  
J. H. Smith  
J. H. Griffiths

Bishop Potter  
William Butler Duncan  
George T. Wilson  
R. A. J. Smith  
Herbert Noble  
Robert J. Mooney  
H. Cunliffe-Owen

Mr. Chamberlain, who was Ambassador to England at the time, declined to join the Society in its initial stages on account of the opposition of the British Society of Friends.

It is difficult to trace the ancestral tree of the Pilgrims.

Each has said in praise of the un-remitting interest and energy during the past fifteen years of George T. Wilson and R. A. J. Smith. I am indebted to Sir Harry E. Griffiths of London for directing and articulating the work of the two founders of the Pilgrims.

Very sincerely yours,

LINDSAY RUSSELL.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS,  
10 QUEEN ANNE'S MANSIONS, LONDON.

QUEEN ANNE'S MANSIONS,  
ST JAMES' PARK, S.W.

July 10<sup>th</sup> 1902

My dear Mr. Russell

I have just

received a nice letter  
from Mr. Roberts.

He comments upon what  
I will assist in  
putting out will in  
in Southampton to-morrow.

to meet Mr. Roberts.

Sincerely  
Yours  
Dorothy Williams



WAR OFFICE  
LONDON: SAW.

17<sup>th</sup> July 1902.

*Major General Wheeler.*

I beg to thank you for your letters of the 14th and 16th instant in regard to the formation of an International Club. As I have already informed you, I am in favour of this scheme, and will endeavour to preside, if possible, at the meeting which it is proposed to hold at the Carlton Hotel next week. I am engaged on the 25th and 26th.

Before anything definite is settled would it not be advisable to ascertain what Mr Chamberlain's views are regarding the proposed club? Its success would, I think, depend a good deal on his supporting it.

Believe me,

*Yours very truly*  
*Roberts*

Major General J. Wheeler,  
United States Army.

47, PORTLAND PLACE, W.

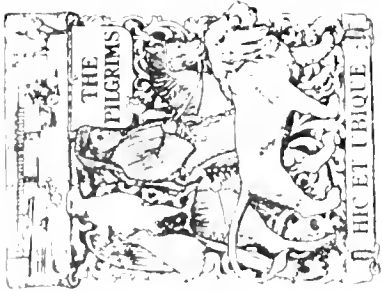
11<sup>th</sup> March 1903.

Dear Mr. Russell.

I will, with pleasure,  
lunch with the members  
of the Executive Committee  
of the Pilgrims, who will  
from America, at the  
Carlton on Wednesday the  
18<sup>th</sup> March - if that will be  
a convenient day to you

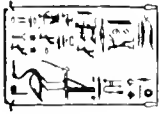
Yours sincerely

Robert.



TELEGRAMS  
AND  
STATION

DITCHINGHAM.



Oct 76-1902  
DITCHINGHAM HOUSE,  
NORFOLK.

at present I think it <sup>rather</sup> details  
from the main design, especially  
in the lower part

The mixture of the mediaeval  
or 20<sup>th</sup> Century methods  
is, I think, happily combined  
I, too, regret that I could  
not accept the kind invitation  
for yesterday.

Believe me

Yours truly

W. H. Russell

To  
Lady Russell Esq

Dear Mr. Russell,

The only suggestion  
that occurs to me with  
reference to the device for  
the Pilgrims Club is, that  
perhaps the scroll-work  
might be kept somewhat  
lighter - I mean, made a  
little less apparent - as

Washington Barracks, D. C.,  
December 4, 1913.

Mr. Frederic W. S. Crosby,  
Union Pacific R. R. Company,  
122 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Sir:

My father, General Joseph Wheeler, and I while on a visit to London in the summer of 1892 were in frequent intercourse with Mr. Lindsay Russell, a family friend. It was at Mr. Russell's office at 3 Finch Lane, London, that my father first saw the plan of organization of the Pilgrims Society and received an invitation to cooperate therein. Later he called on Lord Roberts and presented the idea to him and got his approval. He subsequently called upon several other distinguished Englishmen to extend the invitation of the Society to its first banquet.

Mr. Harry Brittain, who was a clerk in Mr. Russell's office at that time, first met my father there.

Very truly yours,

JOSEPH WHEELER, Jr.

Colonel, U. S. A.

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PERSHING SQUARE

NEW YORK

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ALFRED S. COCKFIELD

MANAGER

ALEXANDER MALCOLM

ART DIRECTOR

December 3, 1919.

Mr. Frederic W. L. Crosby,  
Union Pacific Railway Co.,  
111 Broadway,  
New York City.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your inquiry concerning the Society of the Pilgrims, I may say that as a correspondent of the New York Herald in London during the year 1911, I know the following to be facts:

The man who conceived the idea of such an organization was Mr. Lindsay Russell, a member of the bar of New York, who at that time had an office in London. Before he proceeded to put his plan into execution, Mr. Russell spoke to me several times about the need for a society whose purpose should be to foster Anglo-American friendship, and even outlined how and by whose aid he expected to bring such an association into being. He was chairman of the organization committee of the Pilgrims in London, and it is my understanding that he was one of those most active in the formation of the American organization in New York. I know that his London Office in Finch Lane was for some time the headquarters of the Society.

Sir Harry Brittain has played a very active part in the development of the Pilgrims, but it is unfair to him as well as to others, that he should be called the "founder" of the Society. When I first knew Harry Brittain, he was in the employ of Mr. Russell, and the latter told me at the time he had engaged the young Englishman to do some special work for him.

Sir Harry did not found the Pilgrims; it would be nearer correct to say that the Pilgrims founded Sir Harry. At any rate, he saw his great opportunity when it was offered, and it is highly creditable to him that he seized it, for it gave him the chance to come eventually into close touch with the leading men of at least two countries, and actually provided a means to a career for which, by education and disposition he was eminently suited. For the development of the Pilgrims in England, a great share of the credit must go to the energy, tact and resourcefulness of Sir Harry; but the founder of the Society was an American.

Yours very truly,

ALFRED S. COCKFIELD.



LONDON TIMES

JUNE 19, 1912

In an article concerning the annual dinner of the Pilgrims Society held at Princes' Restaurant, Picadilly, the Archdeacon of London presiding, the Times says:

"Sir Gilbert Parker proposed "the Pilgrims" and Mr. Lindsay Russell, founder of the Society, who was presented by the Chairman with a silver loving cup in token of his services, responded."

THE WORLD, LONDON

JUNE 23, 1912. Says:

"The Annual Dinner of the Pilgrims at Princes' on Friday had one pleasing incident of which I should like to speak. It was the presentation to Mr. Lindsay Russell, the founder of the Pilgrims both here and in New York, of a magnificent silver loving cup appropriately inscribed. Mr. Russell sails for New York to day after a stay in England of nearly two years."









